

Gallinula galeata (Common Gallinule)

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Gruiformes (Cranes And Rails)

Family: Rallidae (Coots, Crakes, Gallinules, Moorhens, And Rails)

General comments:

Limited in its abundance and distribution in Maine, with approximately nine known breeding sites.

Species Conservation Range Maps for Common Gallinule:

Town Map: [Gallinula galeata_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Gallinula galeata_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation:

Maine Status: Threatened

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority: NA

High Climate Change Vulnerability:

Vulnerability: 3, Confidence: Medium, Reviewers: 2

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Common Gallinule:

Formation Name Freshwater Marsh

Macrogroup Name Coastal Plain Pond

Habitat System Name: Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain Pond

Macrogroup Name Emergent Marsh

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Freshwater Marsh

Macrogroup Name Modified-Managed Marsh

Habitat System Name: Modified-Managed Marsh

Macrogroup Name Wet Meadow-Shrub Marsh

Habitat System Name: Introduced Wetland and Riparian Vegetation

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Wet Meadow-Shrub Swamp

Stressors Assigned to Common Gallinule:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability	Moderate Severity		High Severity	
	Highly Actionable		Medium-High	
	Moderately Actionable		High	
	Actionable with Difficulty		Medium-High	
	Low		Medium-High	
	Low		Low	

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Human Intrusions and Disturbance

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Recreational Activities

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Highly actionable

Notes: Fishing, kayaking/canoeing can cause enough disturbance to cause nest failure or abandonment of habitat.

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IUCN Level 1 Threat Natural Systems Modifications

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Dams and Water Management-Use
Severity: Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Highly actionable**Notes:** Can contribute to loss of nesting/foraging habitat, but can also create habitat.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Other Options

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Lack of knowledge
Severity: Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Highly actionable**Notes:** Knowledge of currently occupied wetlands is very limited; need more survey and monitoring in order to adequately protect nesting wetlands.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases
Severity: Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Purple loosestrife and Phragmites spp. Can displace preferred native emergent vegetation used for nesting.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Climate Change and Severe Weather

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Storms and Flooding
Severity: Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty**Notes:** Flash flooding and torrential rains can cause nest failure.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Common Gallinule:

None. *Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Actions Associated with the Marsh birds Guild:

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
Implement targeted surveys to better understand the distribution and status of this species and to help direct conservation actions to newly documented populations			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Habitat Management	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
Work with landowners to maximize hemi-marsh conditions and maintain stable water levels.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Dams and Water Management-Use

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: moderate	Type: new
Work with landowners to develop and post signs or other strategies for discouraging recreational users from disturbing nesting birds.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife

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Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.